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31 August 1972

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

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Mr. Harry Eisenbeiss, D/CRS

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E/HS

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1. Attached is our most recent letter from the New York Times with regard to our denial of their request of 31 July. You will note that they have erroneously assumed that this denial applies to all of the requests they have submitted to this Agency.

2. As this letter notes (and as Mr. Belair has indicated in conversation with Mr. Thuermer) the New York Times has not as yet determined if they will appeal. I think we can anticipate that they will write an analytical piece which will demonstrate that the Agency is not forthcoming in response to their requests. Such piece, of course, does not involve any more of our manpower; an appeal will involve our manpower.

3. I will try to put together a response to this letter. I would appreciate any suggestions or comments you may have for such a response. For example, should we proceed on the assumption that a soft answer turneth away wrath?

[Redacted]

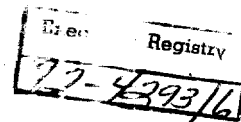
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Special Assistant for Information Control

Attachment

NYT Ltr dtd 28 Aug 72



The New York Times

WASHINGTON BUREAU
1920 L STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036
(202) 293-3100

August 28, 1972

Mr. Angus M. Thuermer
Ass't To Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Thuermer:

This is in reference to your note of August 23 conveying the Agency's denial of all requests from this bureau for declassification of information under the President's Executive Order 11652. It also suggests that we might want to appeal this blanket denial to the CIA Information Review Committee.

It would help us arrive at a decision on the appeal if we were allowed to know the reasons why the Agency finds it necessary that "the documents in question must remain classified". Therefore, please consider this a request for such reasons with particular reference to the collected papers on the Bay of pigs and the intelligence estimate on the Communist threat to the Loatian Government as outlined to President Eisenhower by Allen Dulles at the White House meeting on January 1, 1961.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

Felix Belair, Jr.
Felix Belair, Jr.

**DD/S&T
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